



## Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— *Making a positive difference through education and service* —

August 27, 2003

Dear School Administrator:

Over the next three years, our nation will commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. This story has already generated a great deal of attention, and we anticipate much interest among students and community groups. I serve on the Governor's **Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission**, and I have been pleased to help plan Missouri's many celebratory events and activities. I want to make you aware of two important opportunities related to this celebration.

The Commission has contracted with the Missouri Historical Society to create a Lewis and Clark **traveling exhibit**. This exhibit is suitable for display in schools and other civic buildings and uses beautiful graphics and texts to depict the Corps of Discovery's trip across Missouri and the legacy of Lewis and Clark in Missouri. The exhibit may be booked by contacting the Missouri State Museum at [nrodonm@mail.dnr.state.mo.us](mailto:nrodonm@mail.dnr.state.mo.us) or at (573) 751-2854. The only cost associated with the exhibit is the shipping fee.

The **Lewis and Clark curriculum** is now available online at [www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org](http://www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org). The curriculum, designed for use in grades 4-12, explores Lewis and Clark's encounter with the rich cultural landscape and represents a valuable resource to support instruction about this historical event. We encourage you and your staff to use the Lewis and Clark curriculum in conjunction with or as a supplement to your local, board-approved curriculum. The enclosed flyer provides more detailed information about the curriculum. (This curriculum is consistent with the major themes of the National Bicentennial Exhibition, which was created by the Missouri Historical Society. The exhibition will open in St. Louis in January 2004 and will subsequently travel to Philadelphia, Denver, Portland and Washington, D.C.)

Later in the fall, staff at each of the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDCs) will provide orientation sessions for teachers to support their implementation of the Lewis and Clark curriculum. Please contact your local RPDC for scheduling information. In January, the Missouri Historical Society will mail a CD-ROM version of the curriculum to each school district.

We have all heard the phrase, "capture the teachable moment." The Lewis and Clark bicentennial phenomenon will provide your staff with two "teachable years" as students focus on the Lewis and Clark story because of local, state and national publicity. The Missouri Historical Society's traveling exhibit and curriculum can assist your staff in capturing the "moment."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Kent King". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K".

D. Kent King